United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Libya asks Secretary-General to set up legal "mechanism" to investigate its alleged involvement in terrorist acts that led to destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

- Secretary-General begins preliminary discussions with representatives of Organization of African Unity, League of Arab States and Organization of Islamic Conference on cease-fire in Somalia and national reconciliation conference.

- As it begins consideration of Secretary-General's request for $200 million for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and $22.9 million for Advance Mission, Fifth Committee is warned of "unfavourable political developments" and "increased financial costs" if financing of those missions is delayed.

- Security Council Committee appeals to all States for information on any violations of arms embargo against Yugoslavia.

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Libya has asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to set up a legal "mechanism" to investigate its alleged involvement in the terrorist acts that led to the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The Security Council last month adopted a resolution requesting that Libya cooperate fully in establishing responsibility for the downing of the aircraft.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 11 February, the Secretary-General indicated that he had held a meeting that day with the Libyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations who informed him of the compliance of his country with the Security Council's request for legal cooperation, since it was "in conformity with international law and did not infringe upon the sovereignty of Libya". Libya was ready to cooperate fully with the Security Council and with the Secretary-General "in a way that would not infringe upon State sovereignty nor violate the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law". It called upon the United States, the United Kingdom and France to discuss among themselves and

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eventually agree on the setting up of a mechanism in accordance with the Security Council's request for cooperation on the matter. (S/23574)

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon began preliminary discussions with representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on approaches to implementing a cease-fire in Somalia and convening of a national reconciliation conference.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet separately with representatives of Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed and with representatives of General Mohammed Farah Aideed. In the afternoon, a United Nations delegation, led by Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, will meet with the two Somali parties, either together or separately. They will discuss the cease-fire in Mogadiscio, and security arrangements for the humanitarian assistance programme there.

The United Nations delegation will meet with the three regional organizations on Friday, 14 February, to prepare the ground rules for convening the peace conference. Security Council resolution 733 (1992), calling for a cease-fire in the Somali conflict and the extension of humanitarian aid to the country, requires the Secretary-General to work with the regional organizations on these issues.

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Undue delays in the financing of United Nations peace-keeping efforts in Cambodia could lead to unfavourable political developments and substantially increased financial costs, said J. Richard Foran, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and Assistant Secretary-General for General Services, before the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) this morning.

Introducing the Secretary-General's two reports on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), Mr. Foran said the Secretary-General was requesting that the Assembly appropriate $200 million for the pre-implementation of goods and services in Cambodia for the operation of the Authority. The Secretary-General was also requesting an estimated $22.9 to finance the Mission's mandate, which had been expanded by the Security Council to include a de-mining programme.

C.S.M. Mselle, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), introducing the related reports, said the Advisory Committee had approved the Secretary-General's request for $200 million for the Authority's mandate.

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The General Assembly will meet on Friday, 14 February, to take up the Fifth Committee's report.

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The Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, has decided to address an appeal to all States requesting them, among other things, to forward to the Committee any information they may have or may come across relating to any violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo established against Yugoslavia by Security Council resolution 713 of 25 September 1991.

The text of the appeal was approved by the Council at its meeting on 4 February 1992 and was transmitted to all States on 7 February 1992.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents today that Mr. Boutros-Ghali had met with his Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance while in Colombia attending the opening of the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII). They had discussed "the possible dispatch of a United Nations peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia", which, the Spokesman said, the Secretary-General was considering recommending to the Security Council, "pending some clarifications which are being sought urgently".

The Secretary-General would meet later this evening at Headquarters with Mr. Vance and with Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

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